

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 April 2004 (22.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/032794 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61B 17/56**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/032147

(22) International Filing Date: 10 October 2003 (10.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/417,610 10 October 2002 (10.10.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,

CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SI, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

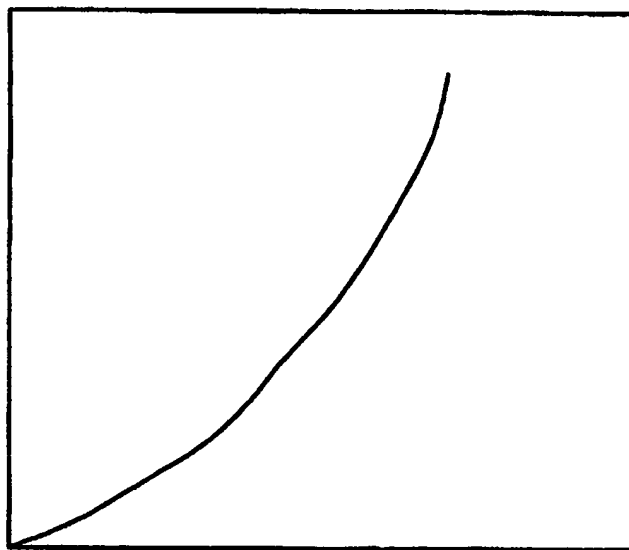
Published:
— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
1 July 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR RESTORING BIOMECHANICAL FUNCTION TO A MOTION SEGMENT UNIT OF THE SPINE

F (FORCE) NEWTONS



DISPLACEMENT (mm)

(57) Abstract: A method of restoring stability to an unstable motion segment unit of the spine in which pre and post decompression measurements of at least one characteristic of the targeted motion segment unit, or combination of motion segment units, are compared with a data bank of measurements of the same characteristics of known motion segment units, then matched with suitable implantable spinal assist device to identify a suitable device for correcting instability of the targeted motion segment unit. The implant selected for restabilization of any one patient's spine joint will be in part, a function of an objective, intraoperative stiffness measurement, which in turn, is a function of the integrity of a patient's surviving spine joint tissues at this time-post decompression.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/32147

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A 61B 17/56

US CL : 606/61

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/61, 69, 191; 128/898; 600/594

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,415,661 A (Holmes) 16 May 1995 (16.05.1995) see entire document	1-20
Y	US 4,899,761 A (Brown et al.) 13 February 1990 (13.02.1990) see entire document	1-20
A	US 5,755,675 A (Sihvonen) 26 May 1998 (26.05.1998) see entire document	1-20

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 March 2004 (18.03.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

09 APR 2004

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